June 4, 2020

ALGresearch

TO:	**Interested Parties**
FROM:	**Brian Stryker, Luke Martin**
RE:	**Voters Support Investing in Skills Training to Improve our Economy**

Based on the findings of our nationwide survey for the National Skills Coalition (NSC), **voters support a range of proposals that would increase funding for skills training programs to help improve our economy during the COVID-19 outbreak and help it recover afterward.** Voters' appetite for investing in skills training is clearly large, as every proposal we tested garnered upwards of 70% support. Voters see these investments as both a short and long-term investment – a way to immediately get those impacted by COVID-19 back to work while also making sure people are trained for the jobs of the future.

- **Voters want to see a multi-pronged approach to increasing skills training that incorporates both government funding and assistance with cooperation from private industry and local businesses.** The proposal that received the most support overall was to create partnerships between skill training programs and local businesses (88%), however making it easier for people who sign up for government assistance to get skills training received nearly equal support overall (85%) while also getting the highest intensity in support for any proposal tested (48% strongly support).
    - Creating partnerships between skill training programs and local businesses had the smallest gap in party support of the proposals tested, receiving high overall support from both Democrats (90%) and Republicans (86%).
    - Making it easier for people who sign up for government assistance to get skills training received higher than average intensity in support from African Americans (61% strongly support) and service workers who have experienced economic pain due to COVID-19 (57%).

- **Both proposals to increase short-term (82%) and long-term investment (81%) received nearly identical overall support.**
    - The short-term proposal to help people laid off in industries hit hard by Coronavirus get trained for jobs in other fields that are now hiring got the most support from Asian Americans (91%).
    - The long term proposal to help people laid off in industries that aren't likely to fully come back for years received increased support from Hispanic or Latinos (88%) and union households (87%).

Support for Skills Training Proposals		
	Total / Strong Support	Total oppose
Create partnerships between skill training programs and local businesses to help train people for the jobs businesses are hiring for	**88**% / 46%	8%
Make it easier for people who sign up for government assistance like unemployment, welfare, or food stamps to get skills training, so they can find a new job	**85**% / 48%	11%
Expand access to digital learning and increase digital literacy to make it easier for people to retrain	**84**% / 39%	10%
Increase public investment *right now* in skills training to help people laid off in industries hit hard by Coronavirus, like restaurants and travel. They'd be trained for jobs in other fields that are now hiring.	**82**% / 42%	11%
Offer tax incentives for businesses to use down time for training instead of laying workers off	**82**% / 42%	12%
Increase public investment in skills training *over the longer term* to help people laid off in industries like restaurants and travel that aren't likely to fully come back for years	**81**% / 38%	13%
Investing in support services like childcare and transportation for people trying to re-train for a new career	**80**% / 37%	15%
Expand support for unemployed workers to include not just income replacement but also automatic health care coverage, training, and re-employment services	**76**% / 39%	19%
More nimble, short-term higher education options so that people can quickly retrain	**75**% / 31%	15%
Reporting data on which groups of people are and are not benefiting from stimulus and recovery efforts, including investments in skills training	**71**% / 30%	17%

- **Voters are roughly split between the short-term and long-term benefits as the best reason to support increasing investments in skills training.** Overall, 25% believe it's that more people will be trained for jobs in growing industries critical to America's 21st Century success, while an equal 25% believe it's that we should train those who lost their jobs due to coronavirus to move into fields where they are more needed.
  - The most substantive difference in this divide came between Democrats who are more sensitive to the short term benefits and Republicans who prefer to the long term advantages.

This memo is based on the results of a nationwide online survey of N=800 likely 2020 general election voters, conducted by ALG Research between May 21-25, 2020. As the survey was conducted online, all the respondents have access to the Internet via a computer or a smartphone. Because the survey was conducted online, there is no calculated margin of error.